

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 AID-20 NEA-10 MC-02 IO-12 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /173 W  
----- 083868

R 021045 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2280

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 1195

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP MASS UG FR LY

SUBJECT: SIMBA BATTALION BECOMES MECHANIZED BRIGADE

1. PRESIDENT AMIN ANNOUNCED OVER WEEKEND APRIL 1 THAT SIMBA BATTALION STATIONED AT MBARARA HAS BEEN PROMOTED BY DEFENSE COUNCIL TO FULL MECHANIZED BRIGADE CHARGED WITH SOUTHER COMMAND. ONE SQUADRON ( FIGHTER PLANES?) HAS ALREADY BEEN ATTACHED TO THE BRIGADE, WHICH WILL BE " ARMED TO THE TEETH", ACCORDING TO GENERAL.
2. AMIN ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT COMBINED SECURITY FORCES AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL WILL BE BUILT AT MUTUKULA ( ON TANZANIAN BORDER) TO " ALLEVIATE FEARS OF RESIDENTS OF THAT AREA" AND TO MAKE USE OF PRISON FARM THERE. COMMENT: IT ALSO SERVES AS GOOD EXCUSE TO MILITARIZE DEMILITARIZED ZONE AGREED TO IN MOGADISCIO PACT BETWEEN UGANDA AND TANZANIA. END COMMENT.

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3. IN ANNOUNCING BRIGADE STATUS, AMIN THANKED UNNAMED " FRIENDLY COUNTRY" WHICH GAVE FULL SQUADRON INCLUDING ARMAMENT AND TRAINING OF PILOTS AND ENGINEERS FREE OF CHARGE TO UGANDA. HAD UGANDA UNDERTAKEN TO ASSEMBLE THIS SQUADRON ON ITS OWN, GENERAL ADDED, IT WOULD HAVE COST MILLIONS OF SHILLINGS. HE PRESENTED PILOTS AND ENGINEERS WITH FIVE BULLS AND FIFTY CRATES OF BEER " IN APPRECIATION FOR WHAT THEY HAD DONE."

4. COMMENT: THE GENERAL' S PRONOUNCEMENTS-- FOR EXAMPLE RECENT ALLEGATION ABOUT THREATENED " INVASION" BY 3500 TANZANIAN TROOPS, OBOTE GUERRILLAS AND EXPELLED ASIANS-- ARE OFTEN WIDE OF THE TRUTH. HIS REVELATION ABOUT A NEW " SQUADRON" OF AIRCRAFT IS, HOWEVER, BEING TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY OBSERVERS IN KAMPALA, MAINLY BECAUSE THEY THINK AMIN WOULD NOT CLAIM TO POSSESS SOMETHING OF THAT SCALE THAT HE CANNOT LATER PRODUCE FOR PUBLIC VIEW. SPECULATION HERE IS POINTING FINGER AT FRANCE OR LIBYA AS " FRIENDLY" COUNTRY WHICH DONATED THE SQUADRON. ON INGENIOUS GUESS IS THAT PLANES CAME FROM LIBYA AND WILL BE REPLACED IN LIBYAN INVENTORY BY FRANCE AS EXTENSION OF ITS CURRENT PROGRAM OF ARMS AID TO LIBYA. THERE IS AS YET NO CONFIRMING EVIDENCE THAT AMIN HAS TAKEN BOLD STEP OF HUGELY INCREASING HIS AIR FORCE. IF IT TURNS OUT TO BE TRUE, THERE ARE BOUND TO BE CRIES OF ALARM IN ALL OF NEIGHBORING CAPITALS, PARTICULARLY DAR, KIGALI AND KHARTOUM, WHICH HAVE BEEN TARGETS OF HIS MILITARY THREATS IN PAST, BUT ALSO IN NAIROBI AND KINSHASA, OVER DESTABILIZATION OF AREA MILITARY BALANCE THIS ACQUISITION WOULD REPRESENT.  
KEELEY

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** MASS, MCAP, FR, LY, UG  
**To:** AF  
BUJUMBURA  
DAR ES SALAAM  
KHARTOUM  
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KINSHASA  
LONDON

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